

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of disseminating information by a first
end terminal in a network having a plurality of end
5 terminals, said method comprising:
receiving information from an information
source;
validating said information;
storing said validated information; and
10 automatically forwarding said validated
information to a second end terminal of said
plurality of end terminals over a communication
channel established between said first and said
second end terminals, wherein said communication
15 channel is established for a purpose separate from
forwarding said validated information.
2. A method according to Claim 1, further including
receiving a positive acknowledgement from said second
20 end terminal.
3. A method according to Claim 2, further including
informing said information source that said information
has been successfully disseminated.
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4. A method according to Claim 3, further including
receiving a reward for successfully disseminating said
information.
- 30 5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein validating
said information includes validating said information
using a verification key provided by a certification
authority.

6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein said verification key is a public key.

7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said method
5 is performed by a validated first end terminal.

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein said first end terminal is validated using a root key.

10 9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said information is forwarded over said established communication channel as a piggyback in a frame.

10 10. A method according to Claim 9, wherein said information is contained in a data field of said frame.
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11. A method of disseminating information by a first end terminal in a network having a plurality of end terminals, said method comprising:

20 receiving information from an information source;
validating said information;
storing said -validated information;
detecting establishment of a communication channel between said first end terminal and a second end terminal of said plurality of end terminals, wherein said communication channel is established for a purpose separate from forwarding said validated information; and
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30 automatically forwarding validated information to said second end terminal over said established communication channel.

12. A method according to Claim 11, further comprising:

receiving a positive acknowledgement from said second end terminal; and

5 informing said information source that said information is successfully disseminated.

13. A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:
10 receiving a reward for successfully disseminating said information.

14. A method of disseminating information over a network having a plurality of end terminals, said method comprising:

15 sending information from an information source to at least one end terminal, wherein said at least one end terminal validates said information and forwards said information via a piggyback in a frame when a channel is established between said at least one end terminal and another end terminal for a purpose other than dissemination of information.
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15. A system for disseminating information comprising:
25 an information source; and
 at least two end terminals including a first end terminal and a second end terminal;
 wherein said first end terminal performs a method including:

30 receiving information from said information source;
 validating said information;
 storing said validated information; and
 automatically forwarding said validated information to said second end terminal of said plurality of end terminals over a

communication channel established between said first and said second end terminals, wherein said communication channel is established for a purpose separate from forwarding said validated information.

5 16. A system according to Claim 15, further including an information certification authority that provides a verification key to said first end terminal for
10 validating said information.

6 17. A system according to Claim 16, wherein said information source receives said information from said information certification authority.

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